

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 4, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 81**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Mitchell**

August 28, 2013

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 81—Relative to Senior Fraud Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 81, as amended, Mitchell. Senior Fraud Awareness Day.

This measure would proclaim November 13, 2013, as Senior Fraud Awareness Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, As the population ages and more Americans  
2 become senior citizens with life savings, they become greater  
3 targets for fraud and deception. The ease of access for criminals  
4 to contact seniors through the Internet and telephone increases as  
5 more creative schemes emerge; and

6 WHEREAS, Senior fraud is a growing concern as millions have  
7 fallen victim to scams, including Medicare scams, sweepstakes  
8 and lottery scams, investment and work at home scams,  
9 bereavement scams, identity theft, charity scams, granny scams,  
10 and home repair scams. Seniors citizens average one scam-type  
11 letter and two telemarketing phone calls per week; and

12 WHEREAS, Senior fraud is underreported due to older adults'  
13 embarrassment and lack of information about where to report fraud;  
14 and

1 WHEREAS, There are about 5 million cases of financial  
2 exploitation of the elderly in the United States each year. The  
3 financial loss by victims is more than ~~\$42.9~~ \$2.9 billion dollars  
4 annually for reported cases; and

5 WHEREAS, Caregivers, scam artists, and unscrupulous  
6 salespersons are the primary instigators of senior fraud. The tactics  
7 used are intimidation, fear, friendliness, authority, and control to  
8 get the victim to send money or share private financial information;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, As senior citizens own more than half of all the  
11 financial assets in America, they are the primary targets for  
12 fraudulent practices. It is estimated by the United States House of  
13 Representatives Subcommittee on Health and Long-Term Care  
14 that even though seniors only represent 12 percent of the  
15 population, they represent 30 percent of the scam victims; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Corporations, it  
17 is estimated that 70 percent of Californians over 50 years of age  
18 have been solicited by someone with the intent to defraud them;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The Los Angeles City Council commended  
21 Adrienne Omansky's Stop Senior Scams Acting Program, in which  
22 over 35 students from the Los Angeles Unified School District's  
23 Programs for Older Adults have performed at numerous venues  
24 their 30-minute skit informing older adults about current scams  
25 that target the older adult population, and the city council declared  
26 May 15, 2013, as "Senior Fraud Awareness Day" in Los Angeles;  
27 now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
29 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby proclaims  
30 November 13, 2013, as Senior Fraud Awareness Day; and be it  
31 further

32 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
33 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.